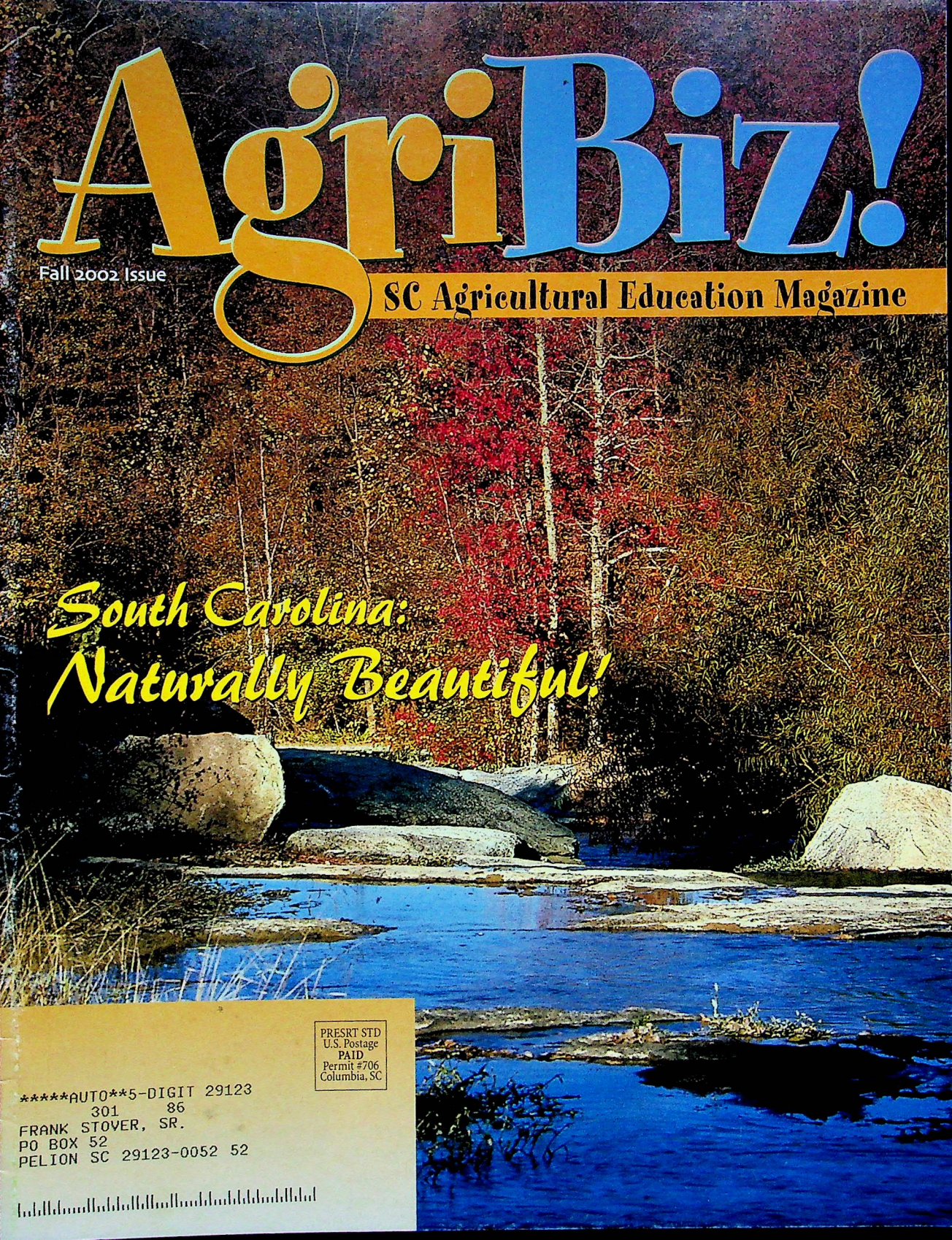
AgriBiz!

Fall 2002 Issue

SC Agricultural Education Magazine



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Experiencing The World Of Nature Is A Top Priority Of Agricultural Education

Agricultural Education Programs in nearly one hundred schools in South Carolina offer numerous opportunities for teachers and students to experience the exciting and inspiring world of nature.

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Nature-related FFA Career Development Events such as Soil Judging and Land Treatment, Environmental Science, and Wildlife Management are among the most popular of the competitive activities.

Students enrolled in agricultural education courses usually have a better understanding and appreciation of aesthetics, land use, wildlife, environmental quality, natural resource conservation and the food industry.

Agricultural Education is making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, career success and appreciation of nature. For additional information about Agricultural Education Programs in South Carolina schools, contact the Office of the State Leader, Agricultural Education, Clemson University, 864-656-3301.



John W. Parris
Executive Director,
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AgriBiz!
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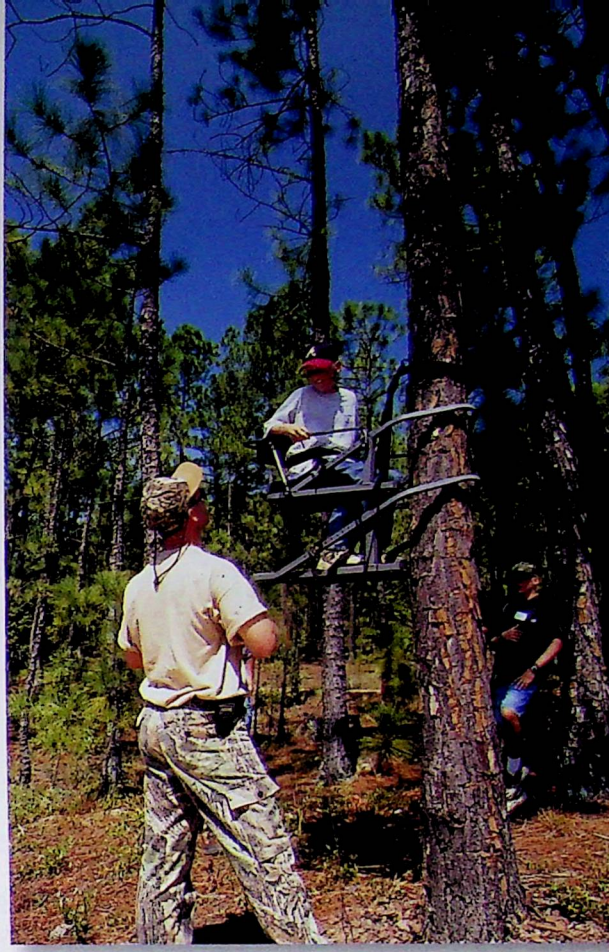
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Hands On For Safety

By Lt. Michael E. Williams



Youngsters across the state are learning by doing when it comes to hunter education. Their instructors are learning, too, by giving teenagers positive role models.

DNR officer Larry Keeling watches intently as the thirteen-year old in the climbing stand begins his ascent. The stand slips a fraction and bark flies off. Sgt. Keeling's hands flex – he wants to reach out and steady the boy but knows better.

"Remember what I showed you," the officer says. "Take it slow and set the bottom blade good before standing. Pull the seat portion up and do the same with it before pulling up your feet."

Learning by doing is what makes the S.C. Department of Natural Resources' approach to hunter education outstanding.

Slowly, the boy begins to work the stand up the tree again, setting the climber as his instructor advised, standing and pulling the seat portion higher, then working the foot portion up under him again. When he reaches the predetermined height of ten feet, he sets the stand and locks it to the tree with a safety rope, leans back and sighs, grinning triumphantly down at Keeling, who grins back.

Reversing his actions, the youngster slowly descends, working his safety rope as he comes, finally reaching the base of the pine. "You did it – congratulations!" Keeling says. The two shake hands, and its hard to tell which one is more proud.

Learning by doing is what makes the S.C. Department of Natural Resources' approach to hunter education outstanding. Unique among hunter education efforts throughout the nation, Hands-On Hunter-Ed teaches young people about firearms and tree stands using qualified instructors concerned about safety and the future of hunting. It's taught in the classroom and outdoors where both the inexperienced and experienced are directly involved.

Offered free, held year-round with firearms, ammunition, skeet and throwers, eye and ear protection and tree stands provided, the Hands-On Hunter Ed course satisfies the law's requirement that anyone born after June 30, 1979, must successfully complete an education course before obtaining a license to hunt. While Keeling encourages families to take the course together – it has attracted single parents, men and women who want to get into shooting sports, and parents accompanying their children – most attendees are young people who need certification. "Actually", he says, "it's for anyone who wants to learn about firearms and firearm safety."

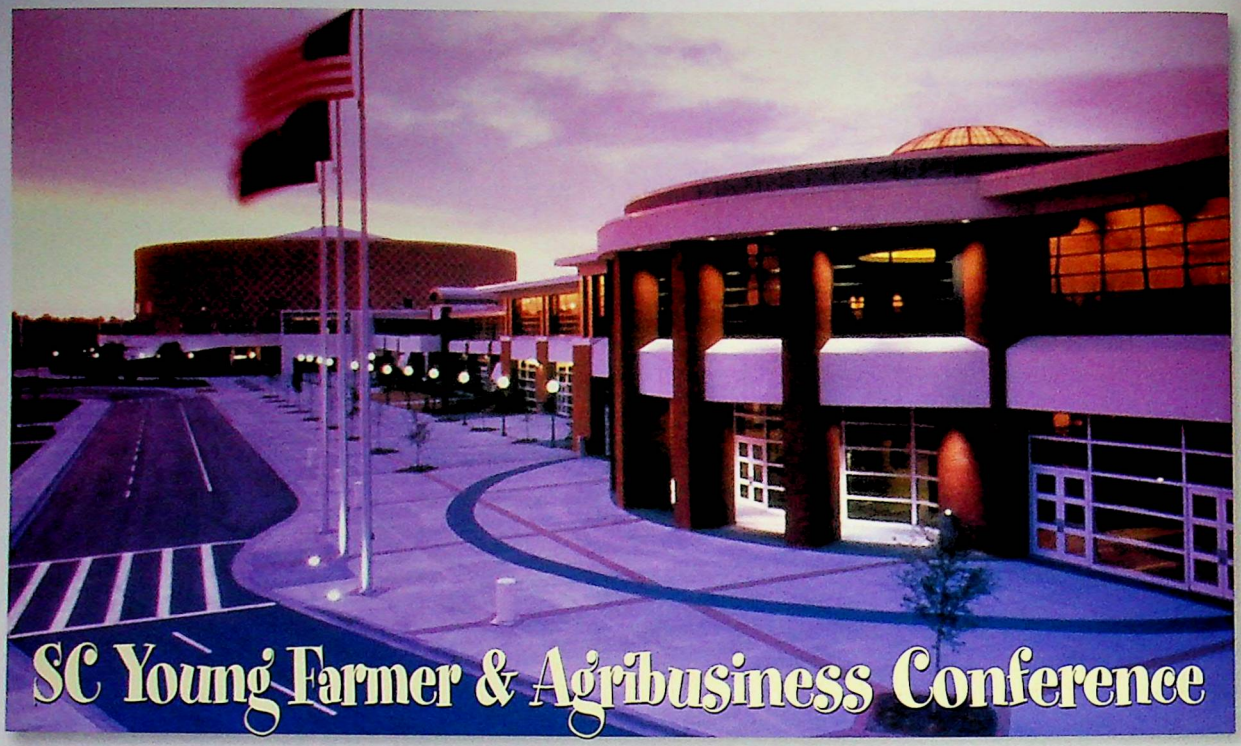
A typical class day begins at 8:00 am inside the classroom, with study of the hunter education manual, then students move out to the firing range. Participants can experience shooting shotguns and rifles, or they can practice tips learned on tree stand and harness safety.

From the outdoor classroom, participants move back inside to complete the required course work. Instructors stress obeying the law, but practicing courtesy and good, responsible behavior receives equal emphasis. Keeling says, "When we finish a course, we feel like we've really made a difference in someone's life. We've not only shown them how to be safe, we've also shown them how to respect the land."

In addition to the Hands-On Hunter Ed method, students can attend a structured classroom course through schools offered at night or on weekends. A home study course is available when a regular class is not convenient.

For more information on these options, call 1-800-277-4301 or 803-734-3995.

This article first appeared in South Carolina Wildlife magazine, July-August 1999.



SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Conference

The 55th Annual State Conference of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association is scheduled at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in North Charleston, Friday and Saturday, January 10-11, 2003.

The Friday afternoon program begins with guided tours of the Middleton Place Gardens led by Richard Porcher, a renowned Botanist at The Citadel and expert on native plants of South Carolina. The Gardens will be highlighted by Camellias in full bloom. Other tours of the Plantation, including stables and the blacksmith shop, will be led by historians dressed in seventeenth century attire.

The evening will end with a low-country seafood dinner by the roaring fire in the Middleton Place Pavilion. Entertainment will be provided by Douglas McCormick, an FFA member from McBee, SC, who's amazing voice was featured at the 2002 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, where he performed before thousands.

The program continues on Saturday morning with a complimentary "made-to-order" breakfast, followed by informative workshops, including one on agricultural legislation with a discussion of the new Farm Bill led by Walter Douglas, State Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; the Honorable Billy Witherspoon, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Conway, SC; and other agricultural and legislative leaders. A workshop on financial planning will be led by Ben Rast, a noted Financial Manager. Clemson University professionals will lead a workshop for pesticide certification credits. There will be other workshops on horticulture and small engine repair.

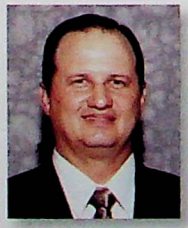
The evening will end with a low-country seafood dinner by roaring fire in the Middleton Place Pavilion.

State Commissioner of Agriculture-elect Charles R. Sharpe will address the Awards Luncheon on Saturday where Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association members will be recognized for outstanding accomplishments.

A visit to historic Charleston on Saturday afternoon will be expedited by shuttle buses available through the hotel at a reasonable cost. There will also be interesting activities at the adjoining Convention Center, including a shallow water fishing demonstration.

The banquet will feature nationally recognized humorist and inspirational speaker Glenn Ward who is known as the man of a thousand voices. Dr. John W. Kelly, Vice President of Public Service and Agriculture at Clemson University, will bring greetings and assist in the presentation of the Outstanding Young Farmer and Agribusiness Awards. The Outstanding Chapter Advisor will also be recognized. A live auction will follow the banquet where seed and chemicals are always a bargain. Loads of door prizes will be offered throughout the conference.

I challenge you to be a participant in the 2003 State conference where you will stay in one of the nicest hotels, enjoy fellowship and entertainment, and where attendance records are sure to be shattered.



By John F. Cuttino
State President

SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Conference • January 10-11, 2003

Charleston Convention Center & Embassy Suites

Middleton Place Gardens (photo courtesy Middleton Place)

PROGRAM

Friday, January 10, 2003

1 PM - 5 PM..... Registration and Exhibit Set-Up

3, 4, 5 & 6 PM..... Shuttle Buses To Middleton Place For Garden & Other Tours.

6:30 PM..... Dinner at Middleton Place Pavilion

Saturday, January 11, 2003

Complimentary "Made To Order" Breakfast at Embassy Suites

7:30 AM Delegate Session

9 AM Workshop Sessions

12 Noon..... Awards Luncheon

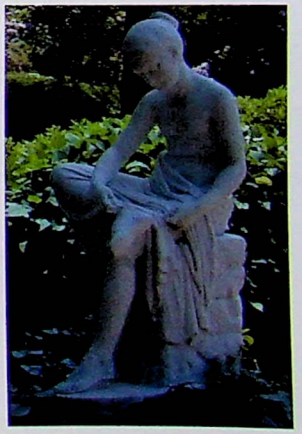
1:30 PM Ice Cream Social

2 PM - 6 PM..... Family Time

7 PM Banquet

9 PM Auction





Convention Sponsors

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Seated is Mike Haynes, left, President, with Joshua Waters, V.P., Standing (from left) Carrie Trebil, V.P., Christopher Moss, Secretary; and Nic Stratton, V.P.

State FFA Officer Team

President Mike Haynes is a senior at Indian Land High School. He is the son of Tim and Mary Haynes of Fort Mill. Jerry Davis is his FFA Advisor.

Secretary Christopher Moss is a freshman at Clemson majoring in Horticulture. He is the son of Thomas and Susan Moss of Walhalla. Steve Morrison is his FFA Advisor.

Vice President Joshua Waters is a freshman at Piedmont Technical College and plans to transfer to Clemson to major in Agricultural Education. He is the son of Richard and Mary Waters of Gilbert. Derrick Cooper is his FFA Advisor.

Vice President Bryan Armstrong is a freshman at Greenville Technical College majoring in Veterinary Science. He is the son of Kent and Mary Armstrong of Gray Court. Melanie Birchmore is his FFA Advisor.

Vice President Nic Stratton is a freshman at Midlands Technical College and plans to transfer to Clemson to major in Agricultural Education. He is the son of Tony and Colleen Warder of Lexington. Tommy Harmon is his FFA Advisor.

Vice President Carrie Trebil is a senior at Manning High School. She will attend Clemson in 2003 to major in Landscape Architecture. She is the daughter of David and Shirley Trebil of Manning. Michael Haynes is her FFA Advisor.



The SC FFA delegation meets Congressman Joe Wilson on the Capitol steps.

SC FFA Association Highlights

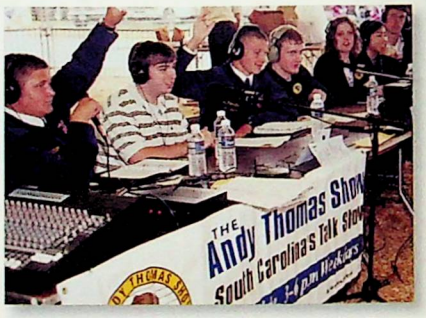
By Mike Haynes

NATIONAL FFA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Forty SC FFA members and advisors attended the Washington DC FFA Leadership Conference in July. The group met Dr. Larry Case, National Advisor, Coleman Harris, National Executive Secretary, Congressmen Joe Wilson of Lexington, John Spratt of Rock Hill, and other US Government leaders. Participants enjoyed Leadership Seminars, Character Building Workshops and tours of historic sites in Washington.

ANDY THOMAS STATEWIDE RADIO TALK SHOW

The SC FFA Association reached a new communications plateau by co-sponsoring a three-month segment of the statewide Andy Thomas Radio Show, including a three-hour broadcast from the SC State Fair Grounds. The State Officers participated in the Show's Teen Forum and were interviewed along with other Agricultural and Government leaders, including Clemson University President James Barker. FFA commercials are being aired daily through December.

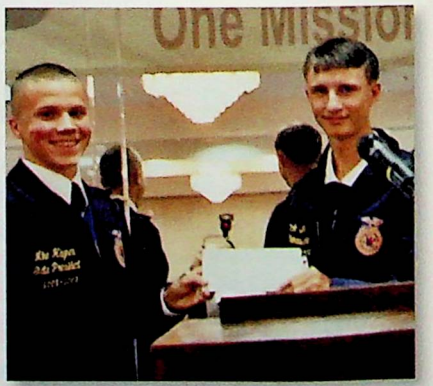


State FFA Officers served as panelists on the Teen Forum broadcast portion of the Andy Thomas Radio Show.

STATE FAIR FFA RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

More than 500 FFA members, advisors, parents, school administrators, Clemson officials, State Constitutional Officers and others attended the State FFA Recognition Luncheon on October 9th. The Manning High School FFA Color Guard presented the Colors, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by McBee FFA member Douglas McCormick. General Manager Gary Goodman welcomed the group to the State Fair.

Nick McKie, President of the Strom Thurmond FFA Chapter, presented $300 to the SC FFA Association as a co-sponsor of the Andy Thomas Radio Show.



Nick McKie (right), Strom Thurmond FFA Chapter, with Mike Haynes, State FFA President.

South Carolina FFA Stars!



Jack Black (at left) with Chris Corzine, Sherrie Peeler, Davis Peeler, David Nixon and L.D. Peeler.

Davis Peeler of Starr, SC, a member of the Crescent FFA Chapter, was named State Star Farmer at the State FFA Convention in June. The prestigious award, including $1000 to the Crescent FFA Chapter for expense-paid trips to the National FFA Convention for Davis and his FFA Advisor, was presented by Jack Black, Greenville, SC, Executive Secretary, SC Cooperative Council. His FFA Advisors are David Nixon and Chris Corzine.

This is the highest award presented to a SC FFA member who is engaged in farming. Davis is a partner in the Milky Way Farms with his parents, L.D. and Sherrie Peeler, and sister, Iris. Davis is a freshman at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, Georgia, majoring in Agricultural Engineering.

FFA members Joshua Waters, Gilbert Chapter; William Brigman, Latta Chapter, and Gregory Tyndall, Latta Chapter, were recognized as Regional Star Farmers.



Pat Earle (at left) with Gaie McLeod, Alexander McLeod, and Kemp McLeod.

Alexander C. McLeod of McBee, a member of the McBee FFA Chapter, was named State Star in Agribusiness at the State FFA Convention in June. The prestigious award, sponsored by Southern States Cooperative, Inc., included a $500 check to defray his expenses to the National FFA Convention. His FFA Advisor is Pat Earle.

This is the highest award presented to a SC FFA member who is engaged in agribusiness. Alec is a partner in the McLeod Farms and is responsible for marketing strawberries, peaches and other fruits and vegetables grown on the farm. A freshman at Clemson University majoring in Packaging Science, he is the son of Kemp and Gaie McLeod.

FFA members Wesley Cheatham, III, Strom Thurmond Chapter; Mike Haynes, Indian Land Chapter; and Michael Pitts, Ware Shoals Chapter, were recognized as Regional Stars in Agribusiness.

Outstanding FFA Chapters In SC

Three FFA Chapters took top state honors in the Chapter Recognition Program at Clemson University in June. The Loris Chapter was recognized as the Outstanding Community Development Program. The Manning Chapter was selected as the Outstanding Chapter Development Program and the McBee Chapter was honored as the Outstanding Student Development Program. The Governor's Citation was presented to the three chapters by J. Kenneth Rentiers, Jr., Columbia, State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, co-sponsor of the National FFA Chapter Awards Program. J. Tom Walker, Columbia, Secretary-Treasurer, SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, presented each chapter a check for $1,000 to defray expenses for representatives to attend the National FFA Convention.

In addition to Loris, Manning and McBee, the Aiken, Central, Lexington and Wagener-Salley Chapters received the Gold Emblem Award at the state level and competed in the National FFA Chapter Awards Program.



Brandi Thompson of Manning, left, with J. Tom Walker; Michael Haynes, Manning High School FFA Advisor; Larry Rogers, USDA Farm Service Agency; Christina Taylor, and J. Kenneth Rentiers, Jr.



Chris Stevens, left, Loris FFA member, with Ben Hardee, Loris FFA Advisor; and Blake Stevens, Loris FFA member.



Alec McLeod (right) FFA member at McBee, with Pat Earle, FFA Advisor at McBee High School.

Former National FFA Officers Attend State FFA Convention

Presented National FFA Officer Jackets to Clemson Collegiate FFA



Frank R. Stover, Sr., (left), Executive Director, SC FFA Foundation, with Captain Robert Rish (retired), James K. Willis, Dr. Joe Hughes, and Dr. Calvin Schoulties, Interim Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University.

The three former National FFA Officers from South Carolina attended the State FFA Convention at Clemson in June to participate in the 75th anniversary celebration of the FFA Organization.

James K. Willis, a native of Clio, served as president of McColl FFA Chapter and the South Carolina FFA Association before being elected National FFA Secretary in 1952. He was the first SC FFA member to serve as a National FFA Officer. The retired President and CEO of the Willis-Felton Advertising Agency in Richmond, Virginia, he resides with his family in Midlothian, Virginia. His FFA advisor was the late George McKenzie.

Dr. Joe Hughes, a native of Duncan, SC, served as president of the James F. Byrnes FFA Chapter and the State FFA Association before being elected National FFA Vice President in 1959-60. He retired as State Extension Youth Livestock Specialist at Oklahoma State University and resides with his family in Stillwater, Oklahoma. His FFA advisors were the late Ben E. Blackwell and Nolan Barnett.

Captain Robert Rish (Ret.), a native of Pelion, SC, served as president of the Pelion FFA Chapter and the State FFA Association before being elected National FFA Vice President in 1967. Now retired, he spent most of his career in the submarine service where he served as Commander of two submarines before assuming command of the Naval Weapons Station in Charleston, SC. Presently employed with a US Defense Department contractor, he resides with his family in Summerville, SC. Frank R. Stover, Sr., was his FFA advisor.

While at Clemson, they attended the Past State FFA Officers Banquet, the opening session of the State Convention, addressed the SC FFA Sponsors Appreciation Breakfast where they presented their National FFA Officer jackets to Clemson University Collegiate FFA President Abbie Treadwell, Kyle Hatcher, State FFA President in 2001-02; and Dr. Calvin Schoulties, Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. The jackets will be prominently displayed at Clemson University.

Former National Officers & First Female State FFA Officer Address Retired Agricultural Educators

The former National FFA Officers and Mrs. Tempie Thompson Lyons (formerly of Conway), the first female in South Carolina to be elected a State FFA Officer, now residing with her family in O'Fallon, Missouri, addressed a Retired and Former Agricultural Educators Luncheon sponsored by the SC Agricultural Educators Association during the convention. The luncheon, with record breaking attendance, was presided over by Keith Cox, President of the SC Agricultural Educators at that time.

M. P. Nolan of Florence, SC, a distinguished agricultural educator and retired technology center director now in his nineties, gave the invocation. Dr. Harold Mackey, retired agricultural educator from Williamston, SC, gave the benediction. Former Easley FFA member

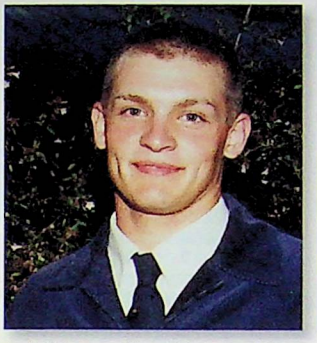


James K. Willis, Dr. Joe Hughes, Robert Rish and Tempie Thompson Lyons with Keith Cox, 2001-02 President of the SC Agricultural Educators Association.

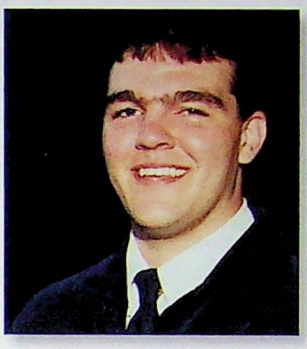
Dennis Bauknight, District Conservationist with the UDSA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Greenville, SC, and his wife, Amanda, entertained the group with musical selections. Phil Fravel, Agricultural Education faculty member, and Keith Cox presented gifts to the former National FFA Officers and Mrs. Lyons.

SC FFA Members Win Scholarships!

Four South Carolina FFA members were named National FFA Scholars for 2002. These scholarship winners are selected at the national level.



Josh Waters, Gilbert FFA member, received the Royster-Clark scholarship for $5,000.



Christopher Moss, Walhalla FFA member, received the Ford Motor Company scholarship for $1,000.



Davis Peeler, Crescent FFA member, received the Ford Motor Company scholarship for $1,000.



William Brigman, Latta FFA member, received the Daimler-Chrysler Corporation scholarship for $500.

NATIONAL WINNERS

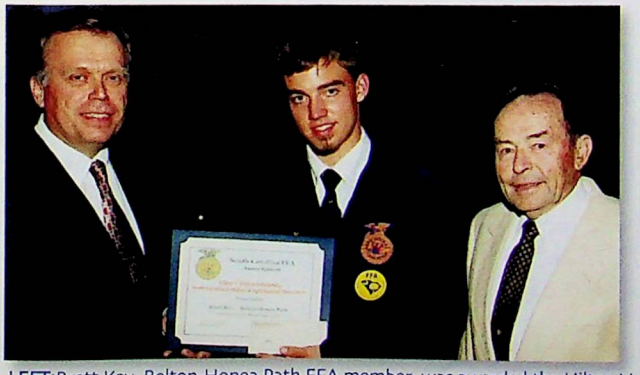
STATE WINNERS

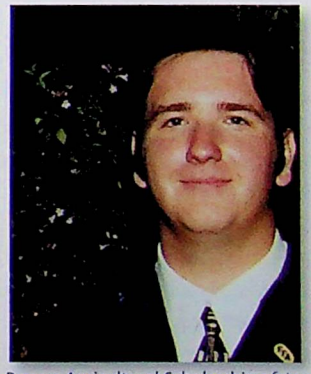






LEFT: Peter Wilkins, Blacksburg FFA member, was one of 25 high school seniors in SC to be awarded a $2,000 State Fair-Sponsored scholarship. **MIDDLE:** Allison Waggoner, (center) Pendleton FFA member, was awarded the $2,000 Dairy Achievement Scholarship by Gary Goodman, General Manager, SC State Fair and Lt. Governor Bob Peeler; **RIGHT:** Matthew Lutton, Crescent FFA member, was awarded the SC Soil and Water Conservation Society scholarship of $2,000.







LEFT: Brett Key, Belton-Honea Path FFA member, was awarded the Hilton V. Rogers Agricultural Scholarship of $500 by the SC Fertilizer and Agri-Chemicals Association. Mitch Binnarr, left, President of the Association, presented the scholarship. Hilton V. Rogers is at right. **MIDDLE:** Jonathan Starling, McBee FFA member, received a $500 scholarship from the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. **RIGHT:** Josh Laws, West Oak FFA member, was awarded the West Oak Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter scholarship of $500.

Golf Benefit Tournament Held At Clemson



Kneeling from left, Matt Savingy and Scott Feaster. Standing from left, Frank Mulkey, John F. Cuttino, Ronnie Feaster and Billy Keels.

Tournament Sponsors

- Stacey's Greenhouses, Inc.
- Honda of Florence
- UAP Carolinas
- SC Soil & Water Conservation Society
- Progress Energy (Carolina Power & Light Company)
- SC Farm Bureau Federation
- SC Agricultural Educators Association
- Palmetto Farm Credit Association
- Sunbelt Landscape Services, Inc.
- Pee Dee Farm Credit Association
- Duke Energy
- Lawson Farms
- Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
- V & V Equipment – John Deer
- Randy Ligon – Land Broker
- Carolina Fresh
- Battle Tobacco Warehouse
- Gold Kist of Sumter
- Papa John's Pizza
- Madren Conference Center and Martin Inn, Clemson
- Hardees of Clemson
- Mr Knickerbocker
- Dunlop Slazenger Group
- Anderson Auto Parts
- Bobby Wood Chevrolet
- Carolina Mountain Water

The SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association in concert with the SC FFA Organization, Stacey's Greenhouses, York, and other contributing sponsors, made the annual Golf Benefit Tournament an exciting reality, according to Tournament Chairman John F. Cuttino, Cope, president of the association. The tournament was held at the beautiful Walker Course on the Clemson University Campus, June 5, 2002, to kick off the 75th State FFA Convention. Grateful appreciation is expressed to Louis Stacey, President of Stacey's Greenhouses and Jim Weldon, Director of Sales, for being the major sponsor, and to the other sponsors for making this event so successful.

Clemson University President James Barker served as Honorary Chairman of the tournament.

A Columbia team made up of Ronnie Feaster, Frank Mulkey, Matt Savingy and Scott Feaster were the tournament champions and Hillcrest High School FFA Team, Will Abernathy, Justin Bently, Steven Best and Rand Bently, took top honors in the FFA competition.

One of the primary purposes of the tournament is to raise funds for scholarships for FFA members who enroll at Clemson University to study agriculture.

Among those who played was James K. Willis, Midlothian, Virginia, the first National FFA Officer from South Carolina 50 years ago, a native of Clio, SC.

For details, including sponsorship opportunities, about the 2003 Golf Benefit Tournament, contact Billy Keels, Executive Director, SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association at 843-662-3526, ext. 253.



South Carolina Envirothon Announced

The registration due date for the State Envirothon is January 15, 2003. A Teacher/Coach Training Session is scheduled February 8 at the Summit Parkway Middle School near Clemson University's Sandhill Research and Education Center. The Envirothon is set for Friday, May 2, 2003.

The first place team will receive financial support to attend the Canon Envirothon. College scholarships will be awarded the members of the winning team, courtesy of Carolina Eastman. The first place team coach will receive $250 for classroom materials. Second and third place teams will receive medals and prizes. Their coaches will receive $250 for classroom materials and the fourth and fifth place teams will receive prizes. Their coaches will each receive $125 for classroom materials. $25,000 in scholarships and prizes are awarded the top teams in the Canon Envirothon, courtesy of the Canon Corporation as a part of their Clean Earth Campaign.

For registration forms and other information on the South Carolina Envirothon, contact Janice Conner, SC Department of Natural Resources, at 803-734-9100 or email her at conner@dnr.state.sc.us.





Success: The Story Of Agricultural Education In South Carolina

As we continue to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of FFA, it is important to reflect on the achievements and accomplishments of the past year.

Students have exceeded expectations and goals. Through hard work and dedication, agricultural education teachers and FFA members are making the 75th Anniversary theme, "One Mission: Student Success," a reality.

The secondary enrollment of over 10,000 students is at a twenty-year high. New programs have been opened at Barnwell County Career Center and Getty's Middle School in Easley. Additional teachers have been employed at Indian Land, Hillcrest and West Oak High Schools. In order to help meet increasing needs, the teacher preparation program in agricultural education at Clemson University continues to grow with over 100 students enrolled this year.

Student success can be measured, in part, by their participation. Last year, over 6,300 students were involved in exploratory, laboratory, research, ownership and cooperative placement experiences. These students worked more than one million hours and earned more than $3 million. They invested more than $1 million in livestock, equipment and supplies. These figures demonstrate the excellent return of investment in agricultural education. The commitment from students to make the FFA motto a lasting part of their educational experience is impressive and reassuring – "Learning To Do, Doing To Learn, Earning To Live and Living To Serve." Many are involved in the development of leadership skills through programs at State and National levels.

> The commitment from students to make the FFA motto a lasting part of their educational experience is impressive and reassuring.

Participation increased in FFA-sponsored Career Development events this year with nearly 1,300 students competing in various activities from Agricultural Mechanics to Wildlife Management. Many of them will represent South Carolina in national finals.

This year more than 600 members, advisors, parents and other guests attended the State FFA Convention at Clemson. One hundred and forty five students were awarded the State FFA Degree, the highest award available in the state for outstanding accomplishments in agricultural education. The number of recipients made this a record-breaking year. Others were recognized through scholarships and expense paid trips to the National FFA Convention.

The accomplishments of the past year indicate students are focusing on the future and preparing for successful careers. Agricultural Education Programs are developing the reputation as a home for winners! As enrollment increases and programs improve, the FFA will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of students well into the twenty first century.



By Tommy Gladden
State Leader

Webbcraft Foundation Awards Grant To Belton-Honea Path Agricultural Education Department



Jerry Craft, second from left, with the WebbCraft Family Foundation, presents check to Andy Holliday. Glenn Stevens (left) and James S. Ouzts look on approvingly.

The WebbCraft Family Foundation recently awarded the Belton-Honea Path High School Agricultural Education Department a grant of $7,500 to assist in developing an Agricultural Education Outdoor Laboratory and Nature Trail. The presentation was made by Jerry Craft, Executive Director, WebbCraft Family Foundation of Belton, to Andy Holliday, FFA Chapter President. Glenn Stevens, Agricultural Education Teacher and James Ouzts, Principal, were in attendance for the presentation.

"The Foundation believes in helping students who demonstrate initiative and strive for scholarship achievement," Mr. Craft said. "We recognize teachers can make a difference and Glenn Stevens has proven to be one of those teachers. We are pleased to support him and his excellent agricultural education program," Mr. Craft added.

Agricultural Educators Hold State Conference

Brenda Wright, Agricultural Education Teacher at Blue Ridge High School in Greer, was elected president of the SC Agricultural Educators Association during a three-day conference in Greenville last July. Other officers chosen were: Joe Wilson, President-elect, Aiken; Barry Hawkins, Secretary-Treasurer, Cordova; Keith Cox, Past President, Latta; Dan Henderson, Vice President, Johnston; Michael Crim, Vice President, Monetta; Stephen Sanderson, Vice President, Sumter; Chris Edge, Associate Vice President, Clover; Joel Bickley, Associate Vice President, Batesburg-Leesville; and Jillian Shupenis, Associate Vice President, Sumter.

Bruce Puette, Agricultural Education Teacher at Cheraw High School, was named the Outstanding Agricultural Educator and Pat Black, Cameron, was chosen the Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator in the state for 2002. Mr. Black is the Agricultural Education Teacher at Branchville High School. The Indian Land High School Agricultural Education Department was recognized as the Outstanding Program in South Carolina. Jerry Davis is the Agricultural Education Teacher.

Benjie Rhoad, a retired executive with the SC Farm Bureau Federation and past state FFA president, was named recipient of the John W. Parris Distinguished Service to Agricultural Education Award for 2002. Commenting on the recognition, Mr. Rhoad said, "I am honored to be the recipient of this prestigious award. It has always been a privilege for me to lend support to agricultural education in South Carolina. My testimony to every audience is that any success I have had in my walk through life is directly attributable to the opportunities provided to me through Agricultural Education and the influence of my agriculture teacher. He, as all professional agricultural educators, provided a positive direction through example, influence, dedication and leadership. No other course of study in our education system provides such a comprehensive effort to develop the student. Agricultural Education has been teaching character education for years," Mr. Rhoad emphasized.

> "Any success I have had in my walk through life is directly attributable to the opportunities provided to me through Agricultural Education and the influence of my agriculture teacher."

The Greenville County Agricultural Educators Association hosted the conference, including the excellent educational workshops and tours.



Brenda Wright



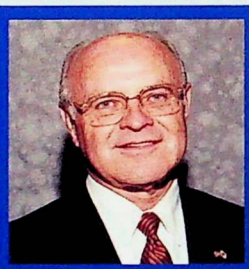
Bruce Puette



Pat Black



Jerry Davis



Benjie Rhoad



Greenville County Agricultural Educators (left to right) David Brooks, Brian Ashley, Clark Woods, Barry Burdette, John Herron, Brenda Wright and Jason Wingington.



Jimmy Painter (left) Head of the Horticulture Department, Spartanburg Technical College, leads a group of Agricultural Educators on a tour of the facilities and gardens.

SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Tour





Greenville County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapters, including Travelers Rest, Berea, Blue Ridge, Golden Strip, Woodmont and Hillcrest, hosted one of the largest crowds ever to attend a SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Educational Tour, July 12-13, 2002.

Tours included the BMW Plant, Scott's Potting Soil Plant, Northside Greenhouses, The Vineyards, Beechwood Farm, and Riverbend Equestrian Park.

Other program highlights included a delicious banquet and a presentation by the Humane Society.

Billy Keels, Executive Director of the state organization said, "The Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter advisors and officers in Greenville County are to be commended for planning and hosting such an outstanding educational tour for farmers, other agribusiness leaders and agricultural educators from throughout the state."



Billy Ledford (with portable speaker), owner of Beechwood Farms near Marietta, explains his "Pick-Your-Own" truck crop operation. With him (left to right) is Tommy Gladden, state leader, Agricultural Education at Clemson; Edsel Williams, Secretary, National Young Farmer Association, and his wife, Jo Ann, of Britton's Neck.



TOP LEFT: A part of the tour group are welcomed to the BMW Plant. **TOP RIGHT:** Tour participants at Northside Greenhouses. **BELOW:** More of the tour participants on the tour. Jason Wigington, center, chaired of the event.

Myrtle Beach FFA Golf Tournament Set

The annual **Myrtle Beach FFA Golf Tournament** is scheduled at the Myrtle Wood Golf Club, **Saturday, February 1, 2003**, according to Harry DuBose, Head of the Golf Course and Landscape Technology Program at Carolina Forest High School. **Schedule of Events:**

Registration: 8 am • Shotgun Start: 9 am • Awards Presentation: 2 pm

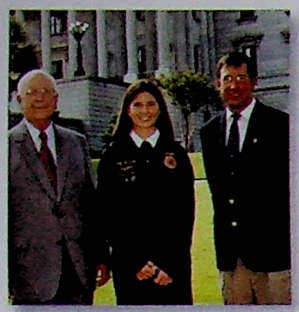
"Proceeds from the event go directly to support the Golf Course and Landscape Technology Program and the FFA Chapter at Carolina Forest High School," Mr. DuBose said.

For information on opportunities to be a major sponsor, a hole sponsor, or to provide other support for this outstanding FFA event, contact Harry DuBose at Carolina Forest High School by calling 843-236-7997, ext. 2054. Carolina Forest High School is located at 700 Gardener Lacy Road, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579.

Photo Credit: Myrtle Wood Golf Club



SC FFA, Young Farmer & Agribusiness Members In Action

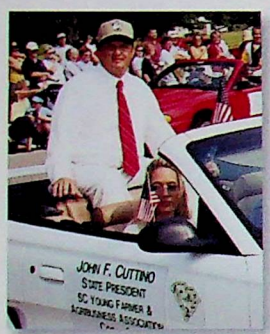




LEFT: Emily McCurry, Belton-Honea Path FFA Secretary, was elected State Commissioner of Agriculture at 2002 Girls State. State Commissioner of Agriculture D. Leslie Tindal, (left) and Glenn Stevens, Agriculture Teacher at Belton-Honea Path High School, congratulated her at the State House. **RIGHT:** Congressman Joe Wilson met with State FFA Officers Josh Waters (left), Mike Haynes and Nic Stratton at the Gilbert Peach Festival Dignitaries Luncheon, July 4th.

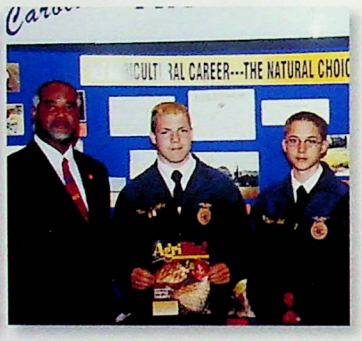


Dr. Tom Dobbins, Clemson University (left), Clemson Collegiate FFA members Beth Whisenhunt, Libby Hrlic, Michael Martin and Kyle Hatcher with Phil Fravel, Ag Ed Regional Coordinator, assisted with the SC FFA exhibit at the WIS-TV Back-To-School Bash.





LEFT: John F. Cuttino, Cope, President, SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association, rode in the July 4th Gilbert Peach Festival Parade. **RIGHT:** Lauren Stone, a member of the West Oak High School FFA Chapter, is the State President of the SC Junior Cattlemen's Association.





LEFT: James Ulmer, Ag Ed Teacher and FFA Advisor at Elloree High School, with FFA members Charles Loften (center) and Derek Bell at the SC FFA Exhibit at the WIS-TV Back-To-School Bash. **RIGHT:** State FFA Vice President Carrie Trebil and other FFA members assisted with the State FFA Exhibit at the State Fair. The attendance approached 500,000.







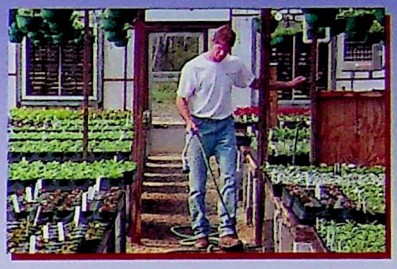
LEFT: John McGee, State Vice President, SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, rode in the SC Apple Festival Parade in Westminister. Steve Morrison, Agricultural Education Teacher at Wallhalla, drove the jeep. **MIDDLE:** Jessie Burdick, a member of the Crescent FFA Chapter, is South Carolina's Beef Ambassador for 2002-03. Clemson Football Coach Tommy Bowden congratulated her at the SC Junior Beef Round-Up. **RIGHT:** State FFA Secretary Christopher Moss of Walhalla (left) and Mike Haynes, State FFA President, rode in the South Carolina Apple Festival Parade. Mrs. Ramona Morrison, wife of Walhalla' Agricultural Education Teacher Steve Morrison, drove the jeep.

Learning ADVENTURES

At The Horticulture Program - Spartanburg Technical College







The Horticulture Program at Spartanburg Technical College takes students beyond the "how to do" explanations of the classroom to the outdoor, campus-wide "hands-on" laboratory. The program has been successful in receiving grants and other funding to develop, design, and implement plantings and irrigation systems throughout the campus.

The campus has won first place landscape awards in the large institutional category for the past two years. The primary reason for the awards was the effort achieved by the Horticulture students in their many projects.

> Spartanburg Technical College's partnership with Clemson has attracted many students to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Horticulture in a quest to learn and do more.

It seems natural that a student would want to try something they learned... a real test of their knowledge. The students seemed challenged to practice what they have learned. We call this "Learning Adventures." Hands-on learning refines the knowledge gained in the classroom, reinforcing the skills needed, the teamwork and pride in finishing a project.

In addition to expanding the arboretum campus-wide for beautification, annuals are grown in the greenhouses to supply the campus with all the color beds needed as well as hanging baskets to adorn the lamp posts throughout the city of Spartanburg.

> Hands-on learning refines the knowledge gained in the classroom, reinforcing the skills needed, the teamwork and pride in finishing a project.

Spartanburg Technical College's partnership with Clemson has attracted many students to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Horticulture in a quest to learn and do more. One of our graduates, Rick Inman, also a graduate of Greenville's Golden Strip Career Center Horticulture Program, recently appeared on Clemson University's Horticulture web site with a story about his research as a requirement for a Master's Degree. He is just one of a number of Spartanburg Technical College's Horticulture graduates who have excelled there and beyond. We often get reports from our colleagues at Clemson on how well our graduates are doing.

Chris Smith, another graduate, is an additional example of the determination and dedication to learning our students attain. Chris is just days away from receiving a degree from Clemson. He operated and managed his company, Grasstenders, while commuting to Clemson. As Chris grew and developed in the Horticulture Program at Spartanburg Technical College, it became evident that he would achieve his goal.

One of the major means to prepare people for their life's work is to build their confidence to move on to Clemson or otherwise become successful in their work as a result of the "Hands-On" educational environment we provide.

For additional information on the Horticulture Program at Spartanburg Technical College visit our web page at www.stcsc.edu/hort or contact Jimmy Painter, Department Head, at painterj@stcsc.edu or at 864-591-3857.

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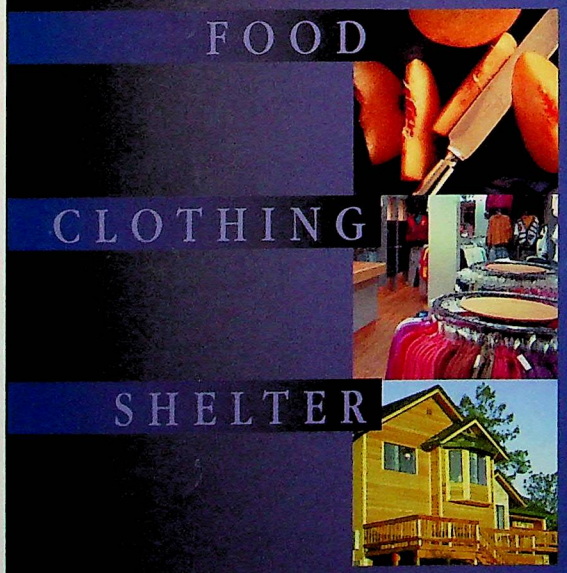
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